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State Water Resources Control Board

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Distribution List

STAKEHOLDER WORKSHOPS ON THE NONPOINT SOURCE PROGRAM IN CALIFORNIA

The State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) and the California Coastal Commission (CCC) are currently working together to upgrade California's Nonpoint Source (NPS) Program for the protection of water quality and to comply with requirements of section 6217 of the Coastal Zone Act Reauthorization Amendments (CZARA) of 1990. We are inviting your input in implementing and improving the State's NPS Program. We are holding two stakeholders' workshops where we will describe our current activities and discuss opportunities for stakeholder involvement (Attachment 1).

Southern California Workshop
Long Beach Junior Golf Academy
6730 East Carson Street
Long Beach, CA
Wednesday, December 2, 1998
12:30 PM to 3:00 PM
(see attached directions)

Northern California Workshop
1325 J St.
19th Floor, Rm. 1946
Sacramento, CA
Tuesday, December 8, 1998
1 PM to 3:30 PM
(see attached directions)

Registration

We appreciate your participation and support in this effort. Please contact Lisa Dobbins of CCC by November 25, 1998 to reserve a space at one of these meetings. She can be reached at 831/427-4876 or <ldobbins@coastal.ca.gov>.

Background

Degradation of water resources from NPS pollution is considered to be the leading cause of water quality impairments nationally, as well as in California. Most NPS problems are related to land use practices. Therefore, to address these problems, various State, federal, and local agencies, as well as landowners and nongovernmental groups, are involved with many efforts to reduce and prevent NPS pollution. These efforts are often supported by and coordinated through the State's NPS Program under the SWRCB and Regional Water Quality Control Boards and through CCC's Coastal NPS Control Program.

California Environmental Protection Agency

The California NPS Program was established over ten years ago in response to the requirements of federal Clean Water Act section 319(h). The goals of current efforts are to upgrade California's NPS program consistent with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (USEPA) guidance and to ensure that the State's Program effectively addresses NPSs affecting coastal waters as required by CZARA. Members of your organization may have had a role in the State's initial response to CZARA which was submitted to the USEPA and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) in September 1995. CZARA requires California to "develop and implement management measures for NPS pollution to restore and protect coastal waters ... " More recently, the President's Clean Water Action Plan called on all states to upgrade their NPS Program in order to be eligible for possible additional funding in Federal Fiscal Year 2000 and beyond to address NPS problems.

In order to comply with CZARA, the State needs to address specific federal requirements. The main activities to be accomplished include the preparation of:

1. A Management Measure Review (MMR) Document;
2. An overall 15-year implementation strategy; and,
3. A five-year implementation plan.

We have drafted an outline of the 15-year implementation strategy (Attachment 2) and a chronology and timetable for completion of these activities (Attachment 3). Attachment 3 also contains a summary of the Federal Findings for California's Coastal Nonpoint Pollution Control Program and the CZARA Action Plan agreed to in August 1997.

Finding solutions to NPS pollution poses unique challenges. While increased use of existing regulatory authorities can help us address certain categories of NPS pollution (such as the relatively recent effort to permit the most significant municipal storm water discharges), it is widely recognized that to effectively address NPS pollution we will need to rely on a wide range of tools, activities, and authorities. In particular, these efforts need to focus on better integration and coordination at the State level and collaborative approaches to establish ongoing community-based stewardship. We ask that you join us in this important effort.

Meeting Directions

Long Beach Meeting: see map

Sacramento Meeting: From I-5 (north or south) take the J Street exit (a one way street heading east). From I-80 (eastbound), take I-5 north to the J Street exit. 1325 J Street is across from the Sacramento Convention Center, between 13th and 14th Streets.

Parking: Turn left on 13th Street and left into the parking structure between J and I Streets.

If you have any questions, the staff person most knowledgeable on this subject is Janet Blake, and she can be reached at 916/657-1033. You may also call Gwen Starrett at 916/657-0518.

Sincerely,

Ken Harris
Acting Chief
Nonpoint Source Section
Division of Water Quality

Enclosures (5)

GStarrett:mtorres(10/23/98)(10/29/98);jmits(10/29/98)
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